

Message Text

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12
ACTION PM-04

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SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PRS-01 MC-02

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TAGS: MASS, US, SA
SUBJECT: SIDEWINDER LOA'S

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SATURDAY AUGUST 28
EDITION OF THE "ARAB NEWS", WITH THE HEADLINE "U.S. TO
REDUCE SALE OF MISSILES TO SAUDI ARABIA". BEGIN TEXT:

WASHINGTON, AUG. 27 (AGENCIES) (SIC)--U.S. SECRETARY
OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER HAS TOLD THE SENATE FOREIGN RELA-
TIONS COMMITTEE THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO REDUCE
ITS PROPOSED SALE OF SIDEWINDER MISSILES TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM
2,000 TO 1,000.

AND, ACCORDING TO CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES, HE HAS GIVEN
ASSURANCES THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE MOST
ADVANCED VERSION OF THE AIR-TO-AIR INTERCEPTOR MILLILES.

STILL, SENATOR CLIFFORD CASE, REPUBLICAN-NEW JERSEY,
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INTEND TO PRESS THE
ADMINISTRATION FOR FURTHER CUTS AS WELL AS A RATIONALE
FOR ARMING SAUDI ARABIA WITH SIDEWINDERS.

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IN OUTLINING THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION AT A CLOSED

COMMITTEE SESSION THURSDAY KISSINGER SAID THE SIDEWINDERS WERE INTENDED FOR DEFENSE AGAINST SOVIET-SUPPLIED FIGHTERS.

KISSINGER WAS RECALLED FOR MORE TESTIMONY FRIDAY.

HE FACED QUESTIONING ALSO ON HOW THE UNITED STATES INTENDED TO REPLY TO A NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL FOR SEPARATING UNITED NATIONS AND COMMUNIST FORCES IN THE PANMUNJOM TRUCE VILLAGE.

SINCE 1975 SAUDI ARABIA HAS PURCHASED OVER \$6 BILLION IN ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES. ONLY IRAN HAS BOUGHT MORE.

THE PROJECTED SIDEWINDER DEAL, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MAVERICK AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILES, TOW WIRE-GUIDED MISSILES AND AN EARLY VERSION OF GUIDED BOMBS, HAS CONCERNED ISRAEL AND ITS SUPPORTERS IN CONGRESS. SAUDI ARABIA HAS BANKROLLED THE ARAB STATES IN THEIR WARS AGAINST ISRAEL.

CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAID THE ADMINISTRATION PROBABLY WILL CUT DOWN TO 750 SIDEWINDERS OR LESS IF OPPOSITION TO THE DEAL IS FORMIDABLE.

CONGRESS, BY MAJORITY VOTE OF BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE, HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REJECT ANY ARMS SALES IN EXCESS OF \$25 MILLION.

MEANWHILE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID FRIDAY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WILL SEND TO CONGRESS NEXT WEEK LETTER OF OFFER FOR THE SALE OF \$5 BILLION WORTH OF ARMS TO IRAN, ISRAEL, PAKISTAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.

SPOKESMAN ROBERT FUNSETH SAID THE LETTERS OF OFFER DID NOT REPRESENT THE TOTAL ARMS SALES PROGRAMS FOR THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED BUT ONLY PROPOSED SALES WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED TO DATE.

THE LETTERS WERE BEING SENT AT THIS TIME TO ENABLE CONGRESS TO CONSIDER THEM WITHIN THE 30-DAY PERIOD REQUIRED BY LAW BEFORE ADJOURNMENT. END TEXT.
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2. THE OTHER ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER THE "SAUDI GAZETTE" CARRIED A SIMILAR STORY.
PORTER

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